

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD

18 FEBRUARY 2016

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES

#### Matters for Decision

**Wards Affected – All (re Welsh Church Act Trust Fund - Cwmllynfell and Margam)**

#### MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS AND WELSH CHURCH ACT TRUST FUND APPLICATIONS

##### 1. Purpose of Report

To seek Member approval in relation to grant applications received from various bodies. Appendix 1 attached.

##### 2. Background and Financial Impact

###### Review of Award Criteria

###### Welsh Church Acts Fund Guidelines for Grant Applications

- a) Each application will be considered on its merits.
- b) Grants will only be awarded to charities and voluntary bodies which are based in, or active in, or provide significant benefits to some or all of the residents of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.
- c) Grants will only be awarded to individuals in exceptional circumstances.
- d) Grants will not normally exceed £1,000 and in exceptional circumstances £4,000 per applicant and successful applicants will not normally be reconsidered for a further grant within 3 years of the date of approval of the last grant.
- e) Grants will have a time limit for the take up of said grant of two years from the date of approval.

- f) Grants will not normally be awarded where the service could be dealt with out of the annual budget of the Council's service Committees activities or by other public bodies.
- g) Grants will not normally be awarded where they would commit the fund to regular annual payments nor will recurring annual expenses be supported.
- h) Grants will only be made out of the income of the fund, preserving the Fund's capital assets.
- i) Priority will be given to applications which are of significant benefit to the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.
- j) Grant aid will not normally cover the full cost of a project/proposal and normally will be approved at 25% of actual costs incurred up to the maximum as outlined in condition (d) above. The grant of £4,000 will only be approved where expenditure exceeds £50,000.
- k) Organisations assessed as being able to meet the cost (e.g. by size or nature) are unlikely to receive any grant aid.
- l) Grants towards work of a structural nature will only be considered where
  - there is evidence that a professional assessment has been made of the works
  - the applicant organisation can demonstrate that there is no other impediment to work proceeding at an early date (e.g. planning permission).
- m) In the case of Churches and Chapels grants will only be approved for the repair of the fabric of buildings which are more than 50 years old and of the highest architectural and historic interest. Church halls, however, where available and used significantly by the public for non-religious purposes will not be subject to these criteria.
- n) No retrospective applications are considered.
- o) The Panel will take into account the Church membership and the normal size of the congregation.
- p) In the case of students undertaking further Education courses, contributions towards the costs of individual instruments or pieces of equipment etc. will be made as follows - 50% of all

costs over a threshold of £2,000 up to a maximum grant of £1,000.

#### **4. Miscellaneous Grant Applications**

##### Transfer of Pavilions to Community Groups

As Members are aware, the Forward Financial Plan and budget savings incorporate the transfer of assets including playing fields and bowling greens and bowl pavilions to community groups. The Environment Directorate colleagues are in discussion with various groups in relation to such transfers and it is proposed that Members provide a grant to cover the initial rent for the first five year lease period. This grant will only be made available to groups during the first five years of them taking over new leases for the facilities for the Council. This is to enable them to build up the capacity for managing and funding the facilities and the groups' services.

#### **Consultation**

There is no requirement under the Constitution to consult on these items.

#### **6. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members approve:

- The applications set out in Appendix 1 to this report and
- The award of a grant to cover the rent due for the first five years of new lease agreements for bowling pavilions to appropriate community groups.

#### **7. Reason for Proposed Decisions**

To decide on providing financial support in respect of the grant applications received. To establish criteria for the award of grants to community groups for bowling pavilions.

#### **8. Implementation of Decisions**

The decisions are proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

#### **10. List of Background Papers**

Grant Applications and Forward Financial Plan saving proposals.

## 11. Officer Contact

Mr Hywel Jenkins – Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Tel. No: 01639 763251

email: [h.jenkins@npt.gov.uk](mailto:h.jenkins@npt.gov.uk)

**Appendix 1**

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request/Cost of "Project"	Previous Support	Comments
Eglwys Brynlllynfell	Replacement of the vestry roof.	The estimated cost of re-roofing is £5,700. If this application is successful in the amount of £1,000 the residual sum will be funded from the Chapel's own limited funds.	None	Maximum grant of £1,000 per policy.
Action for Children	Funding towards providing specialist outdoor play equipment at Park House Residential Services facility at Darwin Road Port Talbot.	Total cost is £11,083 (including VAT). Some funding already identified. Balance of £3,000 requested from Welsh Church Act Fund.	None	Maximum grant of £1,000 per policy.